United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In Presidential statement, Security Council calls on all parties in Angola to cooperate fully with electoral process; appeals to the Government and UNITA to overcome rapidly "delays and inadequacies".

+ Security Council demands that Iraq immediately agree to give United Nations inspection team access to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

+ Large number of relief flights arrive at Sarajevo airport though fighting continues, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

+ Security Council recommends to General Assembly that Georgia be admitted to United Nations membership.

+ At high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session, speakers debate relative importance of reform within United Nations and of international economic relations.

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In a Presidental statement read out tonight by Council President Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Security Council calls on all interested parties in Angola to cooperate fully with the electoral process to ensure that elections are free and fair.

The Council re-emphasises that Angola, being a sovereign and independent country, the organization and supervision of all tasks under the Peace Accords are the responsibility of the Angolan parties themselves. The Council also strongly appeals to the Government and the Uniao Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to overcome rapidly the delays and inadequacies referred to in a report submitted earlier to the Council by the Secretary-General and increase the momentum of progress on the issues of confinment of troops and weapons, demobilization and the formation of the new armed forces and police.

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The Council further expresses its concern at the political and security situation in Angola, which requires the greatest restrain, and calls on the Government and all parties to work closely with the Special Representative and all United Nations agencies engaged in the electoral process to ensure that voter registration is conducted in accordance with established procedures and completed in timely manner.

Finally, the Council announces that il will continue to keep the situation in Angola "under close review" and looks forward to a further report by the Secretary-General at the beginning of the electoral campaign.

The statement issued tonight follows the further report of the Secretary-General dated 24 June 1992 on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). The report, submitted to the Security Council, assesses that although the Angolans have achieved a great deal in implementing the peace process since the civil war ended 13 months ago, the political and security atmosphere throughout the country "remains tense and could yet derail the process if not contained". The Secretary-General urges therefore all parties, particularly the Government and UNITA, to work together "to reduce the current brinkmanship and bring it under control".

The Angolan elections are scheduled to be held on 29 and 30 September 1992.

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The Security Council has demanded that the Government of Iraq immediately admit United Nations inspectors to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad from which they were barred on Sunday, 5 July.

In a statement on behalf of Council members yesterday, Council President Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) said Iraq's refusal to permit access to premises designated for inspection constituted a "material and unacceptable breach by Iraq" of section C of resolution 687 (1991), which set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

The statement demanded that Iraq allow the Special Commission and its inspection teams "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect".

The Special Commission reported yesterday that its inspection team had been monitoring the exits of the facility since Sunday to ensure that evidence was not removed. The Commission is mandated under the cease-fire resolution to monitor the activities of Iraq in areas such as biological and chemical weapons; ballistic missiles; nuclear-weapons capabilities; as well as Iraq's future compliance with the resolution.

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In spite of continued shelling in Sarajevo - though lighter than in past weeks - 14 relief flights landed at Butmir airport yesterday -- the fourth day of a United Nations airlift aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to residents of the besieged city.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, reported that its truck convoys carrying supplies between the airport and four city distribution centres had been slowed down by sniper fire. City residents had expressed appreciation for the supplies, but the continuing fighting was still keeping many residents in shelters and away from the vital relief goods supplied by the airlift.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ogata arrived in Ljubljana yesterday to begin a five-day working visit to the region, to get a first-hand view of the needs of the 1.7 million refugees and displaced people in the former Yugoslavia.

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The Security Council yesterday recommended to the General Assembly that Georgia be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. Its admission will bring to 179 the total membership of the United Nations.

The Council waived its procedural time requirement, so that the recommendation could be presented to the resumed forty-sixth session of the Assembly. Usually a recommendation on an application for UN membership must be made not less than 25 days before a regular session of the Assembly or not less than four days in advance of a special session.

After the adoption of the membership resolution, the Council President, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Georgia and said that the members looked forward to "this further strengthening of the principle of universality".

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As the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session continued, speakers debated the relative importance of reform within the United Nations and reform of international economic relations. Reform of intergovernmental machinery was even more important than restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat, Jan Pronk, Minister of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, stated. He also called for a balance between social and economic objectives on the one hand, and political and security objectives on the other.

In conditions of growing interdependence, accelerated integration and globalization of markets, national action alone was not enough to solve global issues, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, said. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council, as a main coordinating body in the social and economic field, had an important contribution to make.

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The Minister of Planning of Morocco, Rachidi El Rhezouani, praised the Secretary-General's appeal in his report to the Council for a new partnership. With the end of ideological confrontation and the heightened priority given to dialogue, now was perhaps the time to envisage the creation of a United Nations fund for third world countries, to be partly financed by reduction in military expenditures.

Speaking during yesterday morning's meeting, the Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, John Bolton, said that the question before the session was whether the Economic and Social Council would become increasingly marginalized or whether its action would begin to have impact on "the real world". He proposed - amongst other changes - that the General Assembly's Second (Economic and Finance) and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committees be abolished, and power vested instead in an international development council, as suggested by the Nordic countries.

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